

Preface

It is a pleasure for me to present the reader with a bibliography of New Iranian languages and dialects of Persian titles published after 1980, containing ca. 3,600 titles. It provides the first comprehensive account of Iranian research on the subject and also contains works written *in* local idioms, together with folkloristic studies on dialect literature. This book, like many others, has its history; most remarkable is the sheer quantity, quality, and comprehensiveness of Persian publications on the New Iranian languages and dialects, which hardly anyone (including the author) would have expected to exist.

The basis for this publication was my own collection of Persian publications on and in Iranian languages and dialects that I started building up from my student's years onwards, and my annual bibliographical contributions (of Persian titles, since 1990) to the *Bibliographie Linguistique*. The idea that it might be useful to publish a bibliography based on these resources has been growing in me since the 2010s. In 2020, when I decided that the time had come for the finalization and publication of the bibliography, it stood at well over 2,000 entries. I thought that this would be the largest part of all extant Persian publications on New Iranian languages and dialects, and that, in order to be close to comprehensive, I would have to add only a few recent publications and one or two journals that had, thus far, escaped my attention.

At that point, my then doctorate student Pejman Firoozbakhsh brought to my attention a number of other linguistic journals that I had overseen, some of which had only been established in recent years and were accessible only online. In addition to these journals, Pejman also provided me with a number of other, as yet unrecorded, titles that he had collected. Entering these resources, and other new materials, like some unrecorded conference proceedings, into the bibliography took another full year and almost doubled the size of the bibliography. I am grateful to Pejman for all the help and enthusiasm he gave during this last year, not only for providing new titles and constantly checking the titles that I had recently entered, but also for discussing and developing the structure of the bibliography with me. I also have to give my thanks to Ramin Shaghghi for his competent help in checking entries during various stages of the work; to my MA student Ioannis Petsas who helped me enter titles at a critical stage of the work; and to various other colleagues who answered questions on specific entries or provided me with their publication lists, especially Salman Aliyari, Habib Borjjan, Rahele Izadifar, Meysam Mohammadi, Mehrdad Naghzguy Kohan, and Jahandoost Sabzalipur.

This book is dedicated to the memory of a scholar whose knowledge of and interest in things Iranian was encyclopedic, and who was the foremost and most prolific bibliographer of Iran: Iraj Afshar (1925–2011). Those who had the privilege of knowing or working with him were impressed not only by his knowledge and scholarship, but also, and even more, by his straightforward and sincere personality.

Ludwig Paul, Hamburg, July 2021